Gerry's Daily Blog Archives - November 2025

November 30, 2025

Taking a Daily Blog Vacation Day

See You on Monday!

November 29, 2025

More Black Friday Sale Listings

Spot Silver at Record Price

Massachusetts Collection 1874-CC Dime has Sold!

and

A "Unicorn" 2023 Acura MDX Becomes Family

Greetings on Thanksgiving weekend Saturday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for the visit.

Honestly, I did not expect to be this busy during the Thanksgiving time frame but then again, it is not a burden since operating in this manner for years. The "pseudo" Black Friday Sale has found a life of its own with more consignors jumping on board yesterday. Most important to note is that our long term U.S. gold consignor has also decided to offer 8% discounts on his remaining lots. Therefore, you might want to visit the 30 Day Price List to have a gander at the reduced price listings.

Moving the Blog into the precious metal realm, Friday brought a huge jump in silver prices with an ending day closing at $56.40/oz. That is a $3 upward move in a single day with mining stocks also making substantial gains. Gold also enjoyed a strong day closing at $4220/oz. The key question is what has changed in the past few months leading to such powerful moves in the precious metal market. The answer is straightforward. The years of price manipulation by major banks has come to an end at the COMEX and LBMA. China has executed a strategic plan to strip physical bullion out of the Chicago and London exchanges to the point that there is insufficient "float" to anchor the 94% leverage paper trading. As a result, the major "bullion" banks have exited and moved their trading business to other global exchanges. The COMEX and LBMA are not longer price setters, rather being price followers for physical metals. The beneficiary of this historical shift is silver which has been suppressed for decades by a banking and industrial cartel. Where silver pricing goes is an unknown. The YouTube analysts, that I follow, are moving to a three digit forecast for 2026. Yes, that is $100 or more for an ounce of silver.

Massachusetts Collection 1874-CC Dime has Sold!

Friday also brought the arrival of our new "unicorn " 2023 Acura MDX. While at Gettel Acura in Sarasota being trained on the many electronic features, a phone call arrived from a new customer. That individual was interested in purchasing the Massachusetts Collection 1874-CC dime from the price list. We set a time for a subsequent phone call to settle the deal after returning to the office.

I can now definitively announce that the Massachusetts 1874-CC dime has found a new home in a northeastern collection.

A "Unicorn" 2023 Acura MDX Becomes Family

Here is an image taken at Gettel Acura after we wrote a large check and sat through a one hour tutorial concerning the host of electronic features of our new 2023 Acura MDX with only 9100 miles. This is unquestionably a luxury SUV with the top line "Advanced" options package that rivals our selections for the 718 Boxster, but at a fraction of the price. The riding comfort is well above that of our former 2014 MDX that has served us so well since 2017.

Unfortunately, it was late afternoon and the setting sun was in our eyes, also washing out the picture a bit.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today's plan is for a bit of a laid back day with the majority of time still in the GFRC office. The Lakeland Collection has sent along a small Liberty Seated quarter consignment that needs processing along with loading the three CAC approved lots, as showcased in Friday's Blog, to the 30 Day Price List. Already, the 1890 PCGS PR62 CAC quarter is on hold.

I will be checking emails through the day for new orders and other correspondence.

We certainly appreciate the ongoing readership and support as I continue to operate GFRC in a vigorous manner until Darrell and Matt are prepared to take over the helm.

Be well!

November 28, 2025

Pseudo Black Friday Sale Update

and

Premium New Offerings

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on Black Friday 2025. Thank you for checking in.

Regardless of not planning to conduct a Black Friday Sale this year, the GFRC community took things into their own hands. As of this morning, ten consignors have joined the sale with 8 to 10% price reductions through the end of December. The discounted lots have been reposted to the 30 Day Price List for easy access and review. Sales were quickly realized leading to a busy Thanksgiving Day in the office outside of an afternoon turkey meal at a nearby Moose Lodge with several Auburn Lakes HOA friends.

Since the first Lakeland Collection Black Friday Sales lots hit the 30 Day Price List, GFRC has already sold 19 coins with expectations for more sales to arrive today and into the weekend.

The community should be aware that next week brings the Sarasota Coin Show leading to no order shipments on Thursday through Saturday regardless of arriving check payments. We will do our best to ship orders on Monday through Wednesday morning.

Honestly, I had not expected to see the GFRC business this busy at this point in the ownership transition but all is well and good.

Premium New Offerings

Thanksgiving evening found me in the office preparing three recently returned lots from CAC with those all important green beans. These new acquisitions at the Whitman Baltimore show are now ready for posting to the 30 Day Price List. Following is a preview gallery as a courtesy to those who read the Blog religiously each morning.

All three proof lots have secured GFRC-Gem quality ratings as the 1899 Liberty nickel and 1890 Seated quarter have black and white cameo presentations. It is my understanding that PCGS did not designate cameo certifications during the 1986 through 1988 time frame. Honestly, I thought that the 1890 quarter could have a shot at a gold bean.

Freshly Stickered Whitman Baltimore Acquisitions

1885 F-101 PCGS PF65CAM CAC 10C - $1450

1899 PCGS PR64 CAC 5C Rattler - $575

1890 PCGS PR62 CAC 25C Rattler - $950

Precious Metals Rally Continues

One of the first online sites to be checked each morning upon arising is the Kitco platform that reports overnight precious metal trading levels and current prices. Those who have been tracking the metals of late will note that another breakout attempt is underway for both gold and silver with silver on the cusp of hitting $55/oz. During overnight trading, silver was able to breach the $54 mark and is presently quoting at $53.78 on the LBMA exchange. Gold is marginally higher at $4175.

This morning's YouTube viewing of precious metals market analysts indicate that the LBMA and COMEX have pretty much exhausted their physical silver float that enables paper contract trading. Interestingly, as silver futures were trading over $54, there was a COMEX shutdown that has many speculating as to the authenticity of the claim of a data center cooling malfunction. I checked in with Al Copilot for the details with the following report:

There is a report that the CME Group (which operates COMEX, the precious metals exchange) experienced a major computer shutdown on November 28, 2025, due to a data center cooling malfunction. This outage temporarily froze trading across multiple markets, including precious metals contracts.

What Happened
• Cause: A cooling failure at a CyrusOne data center disrupted systems supporting CME Group's trading platforms.
• Impact: The outage halted 90% of global derivatives trading, including futures and options tied to equity indexes, bonds, currencies, energy, and commodities such as gold and silver.
• Duration: The freeze lasted longer than a similar CME tech glitch in 2019, underscoring the systemic risk of centralized infrastructure.
• Scope: While CME's U.S. platforms were down, its BrokerTec venue in Europe remained operational, allowing some continuity.

Why It Matters for Precious Metals
• COMEX (part of CME Group) is the world's leading marketplace for gold, silver, and other metals futures.
• A shutdown at CME directly affects price discovery and liquidity in precious metals markets.
• Traders and hedgers relying on COMEX contracts for gold and silver were unable to transact during the outage, which could have ripple effects on spot market pricing and volatility.

YouTubers are calling BS on the report as the timing is too coincidental with silver attempting to break to a new all time high. The COMEX history for price manipulation is well known at this point.

Wrapping Up The Blog

There is morning shipping to accomplish along with retrieving Diane's "new" 2023 Acura MDX from Gettel Acura once the "ready" signal is given by the dealership. I will be therefore be in an out of the GFRC office today and will respond to Black Friday Sale orders as promptly as possible.

So ends today's post Thanksgiving Day ramblings. As always, thank you for stopping by.

Be well!

November 27, 2025

Happy Thanksgiving!

and

GFRC's Pseudo Black Friday Sale Explodes!

Greetings on a pre-Thanksgiving Wednesday afternoon and welcome to a spontaneous Daily Blog edition.

First of all, Happy Thanksgiving to the entire GFRC community as this will be my last at the GFRC helm during this holiday. It is becoming bittersweet as the countdown to the ownership transition becomes more in focus. We are still targeting early February for the inventory transfer once Darrell and Matt have debugged their GFRC sales website and are ready to be posting independently.

The second reason for this early Thanksgiving Day blog is the fact that the "pseudo" Black Friday Sale continue to be gain traction with more and more consignors wishing to join the event. For your information, here is a list of all the consignors who have given instruction to move their consigned coins to the 30 Day Price List at an 8% or 10% discount. This discount will extend through the end of December, but it might be wise to jump on these discounted lots earlier to assure availability.

Here are the consignors who are participation in the Black Friday Sales based on the order of their instructional emails:

Lakeland Collection - This mother/son team that started this entirely new Black Friday Sale approach!

Cleveland Collection

Mirror Collection

Evergreen State Collection

Island City Collection

White Pine Collection

Unnamed Client

New Orleans Collection

Tenafly Collection

LaSalle Collection

I will be actively posting discounted lots throughout Wednesday afternoon so please check back before dinner East Coast time to view the entire compliment of discounted lots. With the upcoming Sarasota COIN Show next week, I suggest that you don't hesitate to acquire targeted lots.

OK, it is time to get back to the incoming emails and the COIN database to stay current with Black Friday instructions and purchases. And I thought that I would be chilling out during this holiday time frame, however it appears that the 3D ROKR puzzle will need to wait!

Thank you and be well!

November 26, 2025

GFRC Consignors Take Control!

A Pseudo Black Friday Sale

and

2nd Deliveries for Luxury Vehicles are Useful

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog as we head into the Thanksgiving holiday. It is an early Wednesday morning with a exciting business development. Thank for the visit.

Today's headline gives the story line away. Little did I realize that Tuesday's brief mention of the Lakeland Collection "pseudo" Black Friday Sale discounting would incentivize other consignors to follow suit. Immediately after reading yesterday's Blog, the Cleveland Collection sent along an email that said "me too!". Come the afterward hours, the Mirror Collection also decided to join the effort. Everyone is instructing an 8% discount through the end of December.

Please check the 30 Day Price List as the number of lots has jumped from 13 to 41 as I honored consignor requests and installed their Black Friday discounts into the COIN system.

If wishing to become an incremental participant, please email me and I will take implement your guidance. The only stipulations are a single discounted percentage across all remaining lots and allowing the discounts to remain through end of year. Obviously, these discounted

prices will be offered at the Sarasota Coin Show next week. My office day planned workload is light today with no shipping, therefore inputs can be quickly implemented.

Now, let's move to today's second headline...

2nd Deliveries for Luxury Vehicles are Useful

Tuesday also brought a 2nd delivery session for our 718 Boxster GTS 4.0 that was facilitated by a Sarasota Porsche house call.

What is a "2nd delivery"?

A 2nd delivery is an incremental opportunity for having the electronic complexities of your new car thoroughly explained. We all have experienced the excitement of the initial delivery of a new luxury vehicle and the sales rep doing their best to explain all features. In reality, the retention rate for that explanation is probably limited for those who make a jump for a regularly equipped car to that of a luxury vehicle with a plethora of electronic options. Reading the entire instruction manual is always advised but in reality, few luxury car buyers will spend the time to read through a dry instruction manual, rather using that doecument as a resource when questions arise.

Yesterday's Boxster 2nd delivery with Winston from Sarasota Porsche was well worth the time and pre-work. A long list of questions had accumulated concerning the Boxster and this was the opportunity to have all explained. I was also guilty of not thoroughly reading the instruction manual until yesterday morning prior to the 1:30 house call. Armed with my list of questions, a quick reading of the instruction manual brought answers to roughly half of those questions. For example, on start-up the Boxster goes into a 2250+ rpm mode for a minute or more followed by settling down to its normal 1500 rpm engine speed in Normal mode. I learned that the car initially runs a higher rpm to warm up the catalytic converter. There were questions about PASM (Porsche Active Suspension Management) and PSM (Porsche Stability Management) based on the driving mode and the selector switch on the console being lit or unlit. One important question had to do with the map navigation operations as when we resized the map via the touch screen, our location arrow would move off screen, a real annoyance. Come to find out, there is a thumb wheel to accomplish the map resizing that maintains the car's position marker in the screen center. I could go on and on but you should get the point.

When purchasing our pre-owned 2023 Acura MDX, Gettel Acura also offered a 2nd delivery which we will wholeheartedly take advantage of after driving the car for several months. Diane is not a gadget person and surely will have questions or simply benefiting from a second tutorial.

My advice to anyone in the community that purchases a new car, it might be beneficial to request a 2nd delivery commitment after driving the car for 60 days of so.

Wrapping Up The Blog

As mentioned earlier, there is no GFRC shipping today. The office time will be dedicated to responding to orders, processing images, and updating the 30 Day Price List with incremental Black Friday Sale discounting instructions.

There will be no Daily Blog edition on Thanksgiving Day as a holiday. That 3D ROKR puzzle awaits me and I'd like to chill out with this 10 hours or so project.

For the gold and silver bugs among us, both metals are again in a rally cycle with gold quoting at $4171 and silver at $52.35. This rally appears to be a new attempt to break out of the recent consolidation pattern. If gold can close on Friday at or above $4175, then we could be headed to $4400 by year end. In that case, silver will also move higher.

I've been reading so much favorable news for the precious metals that the question of higher prices is not IF but a matter of WHEN.

OK, that is it for today's ramblings. As always, thank you for returning for today's edition.

Be well!

November 25, 2025

Sarasota Coin Show Arrives Next Week

and

Three Freshly CAC Approved Lots

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Tuesday morning. Thank you so much for the visit.

Every day brings something new at the GFRC Venice office. On Monday, I received an email from the mother/son Lakeland Collection team that they wished to conduct their own Black Friday Sales event with an 8% discount on all their remaining offering through the end of December. Those lots will be repriced and loaded to the top of the 30 Day Price List today. More on this topic within tomorrow's Blog edition.

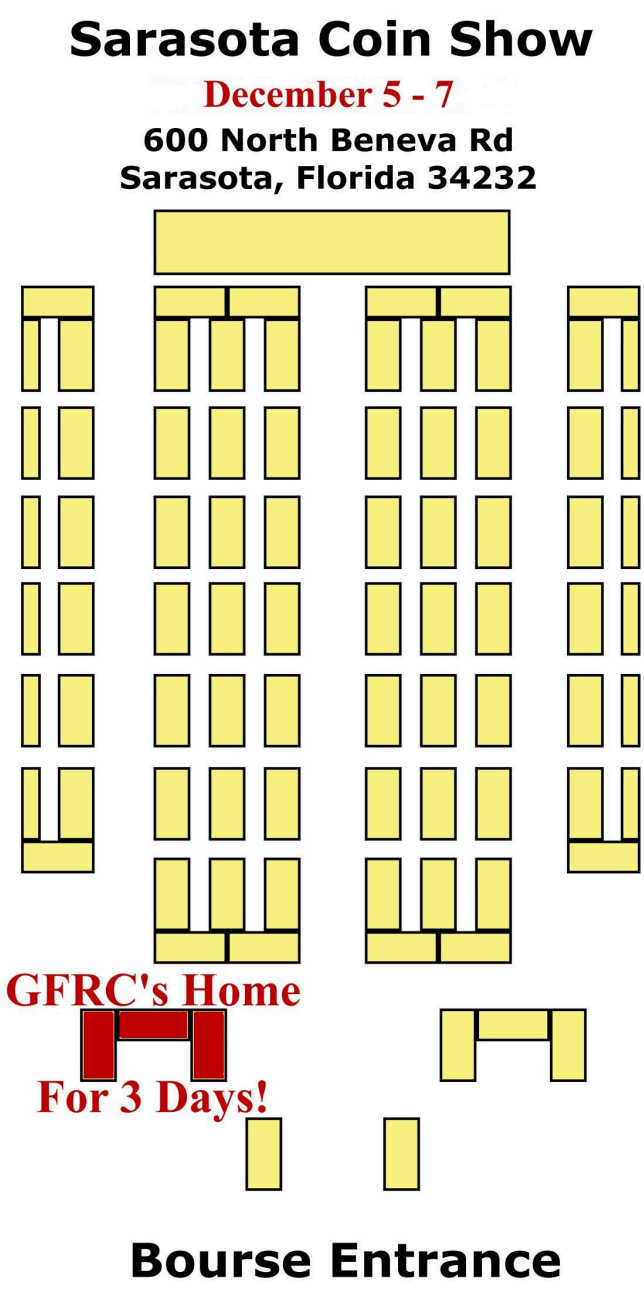
Secondly, a return shipment from CAC Stickering was left in front of my door without any attempt to secure a signature. I was taking out the trash after dinner, opening the front door and not expecting an object at the door's threshold when stepping on the box. The CAC label clearly stated "Adult Signature Required" but who pays attention to this drop-off requirements these days?

Let's move forward with today's headlines, shall we?

Sarasota Coin Show Arrives Next Week

Immediately after Thanksgiving week, GFRC heads to the Sarasota Coin Show being held at the Sahib Shriners facility on North Beneva Road in Sarasota. The location is easily accessible off I-75 at the Fruitville Rd exit or via Rt 41 with ample parking behind the building. The event hall is spacious with a full restaurant on site. Dealer setup takes place at 2:00 PM on Wednesday with the bourse open to the public on Thursday and Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM along with Saturday from 10:00 AM through 4:00 PM.

The Sarasota Coin Show brings Gerry and Dan White together for one final time as part of Gerry's GFRC farewell tour. Our entire inventory will be found in the showcases and readily available for purchase. The following image, from the 2024 show, illustrates the GFRC bourse floor location at the immediate left of the entrance. Please ignore the December 5-7 dates.



Three Freshly CAC Approved Lots

Since being dropped off by USPS late in the day on Monday, the best I can do for these three freshly CAC approved proof lots is to provide a group photo. These premium items were purchased from a long time client at the Whitman Baltimore show. Both the 1899 Liberty nickel and 1890 Seated quarter provide black & white cameo presentation under a bright light. During the early days of TPG grading, cameo designations were not employed so please consider this fact when these proof lots reach the price list. The 1885 PCGS PR65CAM dime was purchased raw at an old time auction by our client and subsequently graded at PCGS. The CAC green bean was readily expected.

These lots will be priced today and photographed if the Florida weather cooperates. First shot requests are welcomed else these will be available at the Sarasota Coin Show.

Wrapping Up The Blog

The morning hours will find me in the GFRC office conducting some light shipping and other duties including the implementation of the Lakeland Collection's 8% price reduction towards a mini Black Friday Sale.

Come the afternoon, Winston from Sarasota Porsche is making a house call and will be conducting a "second delivery" of our 718 Boxster. I have a host of questions concerning the car after having an opportunity to drive the vehicle for nearly 4000 miles. These type of luxury sports cars offer a host of electronic options and a second review is going to be helpful for a comprehensive understanding.

Thanks again for today's visit.

Be well!

November 24, 2025

GFRC Ownership Transition Zoom Call Video Is Available

and

Three Better Liberty Seated Quarter Dates to Consider

Greetings on a Thanksgiving week Monday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you again for staying connected with GFRC happenings.

Sunday was spent mostly in the GFRC office handling some backed-up administrative duties along with writing consignment checks. Yesterday's 1841 Love Token Seated dollar promptly sold and is shipping this morning. A small better date Liberty Seated quarter consignment was processed with offer prices quoted to the consignor. Since not hearing back, I will just announce those pieces today with images.

Several GFRC long term clients were unable to attend Thursday's "ownership transition" Zoom meeting and requested that a video of the meeting be posted. Len Augsburger was able to post that video to YouTube after approval from the key participants. The video can be viewed at this link:

https://youtu.be/ax6CqZUknYA

Three Better Liberty Seated Quarter Dates to Consider

Our newest consignment arrived during the past week and is ready for posting to the 30 Day Price List once there is offer price approval by the consignor. Below are three better date Liberty Seated quarters for your consideration. The 1849-O and 1855-O quarters are old friends with their prior sales records available in the Sales Archive. Today's posting in the Daily Blog is a First Right of Refusal or first shot opportunity.

Better Dates from a New Consignor

1849-O PCGS G06 25C

1855-O PCGS EF40 25C

1871-S PCGS VF20 25C

Wrapping Up The Blog

GFRC sales continue to be brisk regardless of an anemic 30 Day Price List. Those coins that do post are selling rapidly as my goal is to not build up inventory ahead of the ownership transition. In other words, offer prices are attractive.

Morning shipping will keep me busy today followed by a Porsche drive to the Venice Island post office. I've never enjoyed going to the post office so much! The open exhaust valve symphony is music to my ears. I've yet to decide what the afternoon will bring, but most likely more consignment check preparations along with processing images for my own Liberty Seated dime web-book plate coins.

A quick look at gold and silver markets yields nothing new as the consolidation of gold between $4000 to $4100 and silver at $50 continues. Frankly, this is the best possible situation after a sharp increase during 2025. Everyone that I watch on YouTube expects the precious metal rally to continue during 2026 with the typical gold price target between $5000 to $6000 due to too much sovereign debt and highly speculative derivative bets in the financial system.

At this point, there is little else to share therefore let's wrap up the Blog at this point. Thanks again for the visit.

Be well!

November 23, 2025

A Historical 1841 Liberty Seated Dollar Love Token

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a late November 2025 Sunday morning. Thank for the visit.

As I sit in the GFRC Venice office and contemplate today's opening preamble. the thought arrived that my GFRC blogging days will be coming to an end in roughly 70 days or so. Can you imagine that? Each morning, there will be an extra one to two hours of life to explore personal topics and expand one's hobbies. Currently awaiting my attention is a newly ordered ROKR 3D London Marble Travel puzzle that I'm looking forward to assemble over the long Thanksgiving weekend given no Black Friday Sale.

As promised in yesterday's non-numismatic edition, today brings attention to a historical consignment that is worthy of a special announcement.

Just arrived from a long time client is the following 1841 Liberty Seated Dollar with the inscription Born May 15 1858 on the obverse and Frederic J. Lawrence on the reverse.

1841 Seated Dollar Love Token in Memory of Frederic J. Lawrence

This dollar coin features Fine grade level wear with old album blues and gold appearing in the fields under a bright light. Rims are well preserved and without any marks. A single small hole at 12:00 is noted for wearing the silver piece as a pendant.

Our consignor conducted research via Ancestry.com and was able to locate information concerning the background of Federic J Lawrence. Sadly, Federic was only 6 years old when passing during the American Civil War. Here is a screen capture from the Ancestry.com website with an illustration of Frederic's tombstone.

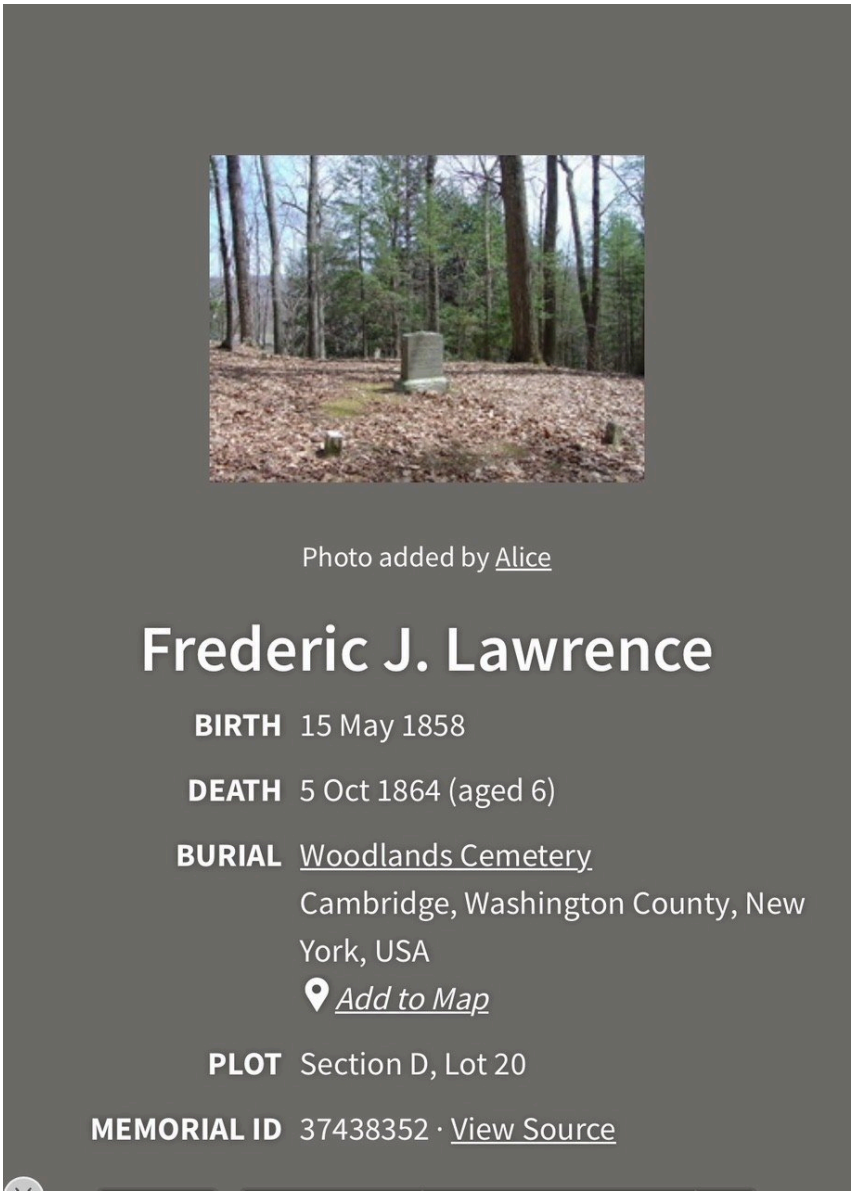


Photo added by Alice
Frederic J. Lawrence
BIRTH 15 May 1858
DEATH 5 Oct 1864 (aged 6)
BURIAL Woodlands Cemetery
Cambridge, Washington County, New York, USA
Add to Map
PLOT Section D, Lot 20
MEMORIAL ID 37438352 · View Source

This new lot will be loaded to the 30 Day Price List today at $650. Blog readers now have a first shot opportunity.

Wrapping Up the Blog

Today brings some down time along with processing images for a four piece Liberty Seated quarter consignment including 1849-O PCGS G06, 1855-O PCGS EF40, 1871-S PCGS VF20, and a corroded 1860-S in a details ANACS VF30 holder. Please give me a shout if any of these might be of interest.

Up next is our morning health walk.

Thank you again for the visit.

Be well!

November 22, 2025

MDX History Repeats Itself....

Greetings on pre-Thanksgiving week Saturday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for the repeat visits.

Fair warning is in order for today's edition as there will be no numismatic content....

MDX History Repeats Itself....

Today's headline deserves the telling of a back story as a starting point...

Back in 2017. GFRC had begun to grow it business volume with expanding inventory levels. The semi-annual Maine to Florida and Florida to Maine migrations were taking place in a Toyota Avalon sedan that had limited trunk space for the ever increasing amount of luggage necessary to store our numismatic inventories. During December 2017, we arrived at the Venice condo with the Avalon starting to show its age and trustworthiness for the 1550 mile trips. It was time to retire the old Toyota Avalon and purchase a replacement.

Our first stop during the initial day of car shopping was Venice Toyota and test driving a new Avalon sedan. Neither Diane and I were impressed with the vehicle as a long haul replacement. Directly across I-41, was Suncoast Motors where Diane had seen a newly listed used 2014 Acura MDX with only 14,000 miles. Our second stop was that dealership and a request to test drive the newly listed SUV. At this point in my life, I had never owned an SUV, rather always purchasing sedans or trucks. The sales rep was accommodating as the MDX has just been taken in trade and had not been cleaned and inspected sufficient for the vehicle to be placed on the lot. Our rep secured permission for a short test drive which I leveraged to the max to test out the handling capabilities.

Diane and I did something that was uncharacteristic that day. We purchased that MDX on the spot and fell in love with the power, handling, and massive storage space for the long haul east coast trips. That decision proved to be sound as we have driven our cherished 2014 MDX since that purchase day and have taken the odometer to 133,000+ miles during the current Maine to Florida migration. The large amount of miles is a function of using the MDX to travel to coin shows. At this point, the mileage and overall condition of the car warranted an effort to start looking for a replacement.

Yesterday, Diane and I made a decision to start shopping for a replacement SUV. Off we went in the top down 718 Boxster as it was a beautiful sunny day. Our target was Clark Rd in Sarasota where a host of luxury car dealerships are within several miles of each other. The first stop was the BMW dealership to check out the I7 SUV. Our requirement was a 6 cylinder engine and three row setting for use with the grandchildren when visiting Maine and Florida. We test drove a used 2022 I7 with 48,000 miles. As expected, the vehicle had the firmer ride that one expects from a German luxury SUV. The amount of in cabin electronics was over the top and triggered stories of BMW reliability issues and high maintenance costs. We said our goodbye to the sales rep, a young man from Maine of all places.

The next stop was well known to me, Gettel Acura, as the location where I've taken the 2014 MDX for servicing. We walked the lot and found little for either the Gen 3 or Gen 4 Acura MDXs as pre-owned. Heading into the showroom, we met Austin, as our sales rep, and explained our situation with the 2014 MDX. We love this car but the Gen 3 body style was last produced during 2020. There were no Acura MDXs manufacturing during 2021 during the Covid era with 2022 bringing the new larger sized Gen 4 body style. Our goal was to locate either a pre-owned Gen 3 or Gen 4 with low miles.

Talk about deja vu....

Austin shares that he had just taken in a 2023 Acura MDX that was a "unicorn". He knew the local owners who used this car as their third vehicle and barely drove it. The car had only 9600 miles and was the top end luxury Acura MDX with the Advanced options package. Now we understand why he called this vehicle a "unicorn" as the combination of very low miles for a three year old SUV coupled with all the conceivable options that one could hope for in a long distance SUV. We requested a test drive and Austin dug the car out of service to accommodate our request. Honestly, the car has just been taken in and not yet cleaned. Diane and I took turns during the test drive and returned to Gettel. Austin wisely left us alone for a few minutes to facilitate a private discussion. Since this vehicle will be Diane's car given my 718 Boxster was a Gerry purchase, the decision was up to Diane. Memories of the 2014 MDX purchase immediately came to mind and how fortunate we had been to grab that low mileage SUV before it hit the car lot. Unlike Diane, who loves to shop, she made the decision to purchase this 2023 "unicorn" on the spot.

A careful inspection of the car revealed one small dent on the passenger side quarter panel and a scuffed up tire wheel. Austin immediately went to work to schedule those repairs for this coming week and the pickup targeted for Friday of Thanksgiving Day weekend.

We traded the 2014 MDX with its 133,000 miles and were realistic about its trade value. The GFRCmobile has served us well since 2018 as the main business transport for the many coins show that we have attended. Small matters like not having the trade vehicle with us were overcome with the Gettel service department records. Our paper title was still in Maine but could be replaced with an electronic version with Gettel as the facilitator.

What started as a "shopping" afternoon turned into the purchase of another Acura MDX. This vehicle is white with tan leather interior seating and a host of cool options like heads up display on the windshield for the speedometer and navigation instrumentation. There are five handling modes and a fantastic sound system coupled with multiple USB-C connection and power ports and a full 115V DC at AC port in the second row seating.

The numismatic hobby has taught me that when a gem coin appears consistent with my collecting goals, one must act swiftly. The same can be said about the two occasions when the Fortins luckily stumbled on a gem or "unicorn" pre-owned viewing.

Wrapping Up the Blog

Please check back tomorrow as the Blog will shift back to numismatics. While at Gettel Acura, the Venice PO carrier left two pink slips on our door indicating the arrival of fresh consignments. Those will be discussed on Sunday morning.

Thanks again for sharing in another of the Fortin adventures.

Be well!

November 21, 2025

New GFRC Postings Selling Quickly

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Friday morning. We are always pleased to learn of the readership size and are thankful for the support.

Well, Thursday's evening GFRC ownership transition Zoom meeting went very well IMHO. Attendees should have captured Darrell and Matt's numismatic passion along with the forthcoming GFRC service expansion plans that include Want List and Auction Representation. The call lasted nearly 1.5 hours with a host of questions.

GFRC will continue to operate under my stewardship until early February 2026 as the current plan. Once the inventory is transferred to Darrell and Matt, my role shifts to that of an advisor and bourse floor table assistant. In the meantime, I will continue to insource consignments, post new offerings, and write consignment checks.

Today's Blog edition will be brief. As the headline indicates, new GFRC postings to the 30 Day Price List are selling quickly. For example, yesterday's 1849-O PCGS VF20 Seated quarter promptly sold along with an 1834 B-5 NGC AU50 Capped Bust quarter that sold in the matter of hours after being posted. Offer prices are fair by design as I'm not building inventory in advance of the ownership transition.

Moving to equity markets, Bitcoin, and gold....

Things are starting to unravel in the equity and Bitcoin space while gold is still holding the $4000 level. Bitcoin has dropped to $82,215 and is now down 38% from 2025 highs. The S&P 500 closed at 6538 on Thursday as the U.S. government has decided to not bother reporting October job creation. The unemployment rate has increased to 4.45% and will undoubtedly climb higher before year end.

Morning market futures indicate that tech stocks remain unloved with the S&P 500 probably dropping lower in today's trading.

I'm feeling good about gold since being a Friday. If a large bullion bank had attempted to crash gold prices, that action would have taken place during the overnight hours. Silver, on the other hand has dropped below the all important $50 level in sympathy with equities.

Today's focus will be image processing for roughly 15 Liberty Seated dimes, many of which are web-book plate coins. None are overly expensive and I expect these to sell quickly once posted.

Thank you for checking in. Be well!

November 20, 2025

GFRC Ownership Transition Zoom Call - This Evening at 8:00 PM ET

and

An Old 1849-O Seated Quarter Friend Returns

Greetings on a Thursday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for staying connected!

The Florida transition is essentially complete at this point with attention shifting back to the GFRC business. Yesterday brought a 718 Boxster bath followed by several loops around our neighborhood to enjoy a warm top down ride in bright sunshine.

Let's move on to GFRC business.

First up is CAC stickering results that arrived via email last evening. I bought three lovely proof coins at the Whitman Baltimore show from a long time client and paid strong as the quality was all there (1899 PCGS PR64 5c, 1885 PCGS PR65CAM 10c, and 1890 PCGS PR62 25c). I believed that all three pieces should sticker and indeed, they did. The 1899 5c and 1890 25c are both in rattler holders and have black & white cameo appearances.

Wednesday brought the photography of a PCGS blue box holding various Liberty Seated dimes, all holdered and web-book plate coins. Included in the session was an old 1849-O Seated quarter friend that will be featured next. In the image processing department, three better variety 1834 and 1835 Capped Bust quarters have uploaded to the Hostway server and will be added to the 30 Day Price List today.

The 30 Day Price List is in terrible shape with only 14 coins being available for sale. This matter must be rectified in the next few days else you might be thinking that I have already retired on the job.

GFRC Ownership Transition Zoom Call - This Evening at 8:00 PM ET

Transparency is the operative word for the GFRC business transition to new ownership. This fact will be on full display this evening at 8:00 PM.

We are hoping for a strong turn out at this Zoom meeting which was conceived towards transparency. A subset of GFRC clients had a chance to meet Darrell and Matt at the Whitman Baltimore show. Tonight brings an opportunity for the entire community to check in and listen to the new owners' numismatic backgrounds and professional careers. At this point, the basis for my retirement should be obvious and there will not be a need for a long discussion.

The Zoom call can be accessed at the following link along with the planned meeting topics.

https://wustl.zoom.us/j/5086565637

1. An opportunity for Gerry to again announce his retirement as GFRC owner/operator and share what is next.

2. How the current www.seateddimevarieties.com website will be reconfigured into separate websites. *The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors* online reference and related content will remain at www.seateddimevarieties.com while the GFRC sales platform (and its many links) will be accessible at a new URL managed by Darrell and Matt. Gerry will continue to be webmaster for his Liberty Seated dime die variety online reference.

3. Darrell Low and Matt Mayers will provide insights into their GFRC website and sales plans once taking over the business inventory come early February 2026.

4. An opportunity for attendees to ask questions and voice this concerns with the transition.

An Old 1849-O Seated Quarter Friend Returns

The just completed Whitman Baltimore coin show was a great GFRC event on many levels. Sales were robust along with buying a few walk up lots for inventory. One coin in particular stands out as I took in an 1849-O PCGS VF20 quarter in trade towards the PCGS VF35 example that was in inventory. This quarter looked familiar once offered and is quite pleasing. As usual, I paid strong for the coin as how often does one have an opportunity to stock a choice 1849-O quarter?

Once returning back to the Maine office, I looked at the coin and then checked the Sales Archive. Sure enough, this lot originated from the Golden Harvest Collection and was sold during July 2020. As of this morning, it is back on the price list at a competitive offer price. Astute Liberty Seated quarter collectors should not think too hard on a potential purchase given the date's rarity and eye appeal. I recommend that you visit the GFRC Sales Archive and compare the "look" on this piece against others sold in VF grades.

Important 1849-O Quarter to Consider

1849-O PCGS VF20 25C - $3600

Series New Orleans Key Date, Crusty Gray Patina, Choice Original Surfaces, An Old Friend Returns. The mintage for 1849 New Orleans strikes is unrecorded with Briggs estimating a mintage of 16,000 pieces. Few example ever reach the marketplace. However, GFRC customers have been lucky to have access to a steady flow of this date due to collector divestment. This old friend was taken in trade at the Whitman Baltimore show and is an important VF20 duplicate since enter the marketplace in a year's time. Natural surfaces are choice and unabraded. The assigned grade is quite conservative given the elevated obverse scroll and available device details. Uniform gray patina covers both side with some lighter shades on the lower reverse. A strictly original offering that will fill that key date hole in your Liberty Seated quarter collection. Housed in PCGS Gen 5.0 (2015) Dupont hologram holder and ready for immediately placement into another advanced collection.

Wrapping Up the Blog

A busy day awaits me with morning shipping and a conference call with Carlo for tax planning purposes. The afternoon hours will find me working in the GFRC office followed by the 8:00 PM Zoom meeting.

Therefore, let's wrap up today's Blog and move forward with a new day. Thanks again for the visit.

Be well!

November 19, 2025

718 Boxster Arrives to Venice

and

GFRC Ownership Transition Zoom Call - November 20 8:00 PM ET

Greetings and welcome to a Florida centric Daily Blog edition. Thank you for staying connected with the Fortin adventures.

Today's Blog edition will be on the brief side due to a busy morning agenda.

Several clients have emailed to check on the status of the annual Black Friday Sale. My response is that I will not be holding a Black Friday Sales during the 2025 Thanksgiving holiday. GFRC inventory continues to shrink at a steady pace as the ownership transition takes place in early February 2026. Those consignors that wish to discount their coins are free to send me their lower offer prices. I will repost their coins at the top of the 30 Day Price List with the discounted numbers.

Now that the Florida transition has been accomplished, I will be issuing consignment checks during the next 48 hours. The goal is to zero out many consignor balances as we move into the year end. The goal is to prepare a clean consignment credit balance sheet come 2026. Once the ownership transition takes places, Darrell and Matt will become responsible for consignment sales, absorbing those commissions, and making consignment credit payments. The plan is to continue the Trading Desk concept of offsetting GFRC purchases with consignment credits. Nothing will change here.

718 Boxster Arrives to Venice

The new Porsche 718 Boxster arrived last evening at 6:30 PM much to my delight. Seeing and hearing the Boxster being unloaded from the covered transport brought a wonderful feeling. Since the sun had already gone down, the transfer inspection was accomplished with flashlights. The car appeared a bit dusty but otherwise was free of any marks or scratches. I also checked the odometer to ensure that the car had not been taken for a thrill ride.

Now that the Boxster is home, the next step is a thorough washing tomorrow morning before the sun becomes too hot. In the meantime, my pride and joy is being protected with a Beverly Hills Automotive outdoor cover. I've sourced both an indoor and outdoor cover from these fine people. The covers are one of the higher priced offerings in the market, but the overall workmanship and material quality is fantastic.

The reason for the outdoor cover is where the Porsche is being parked. The Fortins only have one dedicated parking spot under a carport. The adjacent parking spot belongs to the HOA board president and is being used by his 93 year old mother who still drives. In conversations with "Bill", he would like to pull her driving license but mom is a tough woman. We have watched her struggle to park her Acura RDX into the carport parking spot. The thought of placing the new 718 Boxster in an adjacent parking spot simply does not work for me. Instead the car is parked in a community open spot and is subject to the hot Florida sun and sulfur rich irrigation system water from a well pump. That water leaves a blotchy finish on the paint.

Now you know the whole story and the challenges of community living.

GFRC Ownership Transition Zoom Call - November 20 8:00 PM ET

Again a reminder of tomorrow evening's Zoom call and an opportunity for the GFRC community to meet Darrell Low and Matt Mayers.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Spot gold pricing has jumped during London trading to $4117/oz along with silver now quoting at $52.10. I'd much rather be holding gold and silver, rather than Bitcoin which has now fallen to $91,000.

That is all for today's ramblings. We do appreciate the ongoing visits. Be well!

November 18, 2025

Not to be Missed!

GFRC Ownership Transition Zoom Call - November 20 8:00 M ET

and

Sacandaga Collection - Complete Liberty Seated Dime Collection Achievement Blog

Greetings again from Venice Florida and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you so much for the returning visit.

The Florida settling in process consumed most of Monday with the usual chores. The Venice USPS office required a visit to kick off mail delivery followed by initial groceries shopping at our local Publix store. While I was out and about, Diane was clearing the accumulated dirt off the lanai floor and washing the screens with a hose down. Once cleaned, we were able to move the lanai furniture into place. The gas grill was moved from carport storage to its regular cooking location. On and on, we went through the list of condo opening tasks until completion. I was able to secure a three mile health walk during mid-afternoon. Here walks are accomplished on flat concrete sidewalks as compared to the stoned lined hilly trails back in Maine.

Today brings GFRC shipping department start-up and the 718 Boxster delivery at 6:00 PM. Come Wednesday, we will be fully settled in for the winter months.

GFRC Ownership Transition Zoom Call - November 20 8:00 M ET

An important reminder is in order!

The GFRC ownership transition Zoom call arrives on Thursday evening at 8:00 PM. All clients are invited to join in towards meeting Darrell Low and Matt Mayers and listening to their future GFRC plans after the February 2026 transition.

The Zoom call can be accessed at the following link along with the planned meeting topics.

https://wustl.zoom.us/j/5086565637

1. An opportunity for Gerry to again announce his retirement as GFRC owner/operator and share what is next.

2. How the current www.seateddimevarieties.com website will be reconfigured into separate websites. *The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors* online reference and related content will remain at www.seateddimevarieties.com while the GFRC sales platform (and its many links) will be accessible at a new URL managed by Darrell and Matt. Gerry will continue to be webmaster for his Liberty Seated dime die variety online reference.

3. Darrell Low and Matt Mayers will provide insights into their GFRC website and sales plans once taking over the business inventory come early February 2026.

4. An opportunity for attendees to ask questions and voice this concerns with the transition.

Sacandaga Collection - Complete Liberty Seated Dime Collection Achievement Blog

Every collector who has successfully attempted the construction of a complete Liberty Seated dime collection ends that journey with a profound sense of accomplishment. I know first hand after completing my initial set during the late 1990s and have watched a fair number of collector friends and clients achieve that milestone.

Today brings an announcement by the Sacandaga Collection that he has also joined an elite club of collectors who have managed to assemble an entire Liberty Seated dime series by date and mintmark. A subset of those collectors have gone on to add the major varieties to the collections with some pursuing the Top 100 Varieties. The Top 100 set is brutally challenging due to the inclusion of the 1839 Pie Shattered Obverse and the 1874 Polished (No) Arrows entries.

At this point, let's turn the Blog over to our long time client for his announcement.

Gerry,

I hope you had a safe and uneventful trip to Florida. While you were traveling, I received an 1874-CC Seated Dime, PCGS VG-10 (It cost more than my first new car!) which filled the final hole in my date and mintmark Seated Dime collection. My registry set (The Sacandaga Collection) on your website now shows 100% complete. Not only is this a complete date and mintmark set of Seated Liberty Dimes, but my set includes all major varieties like the 1841-O Closed and Open Bud Reverse, 1861 Type 1 and Type 2 Obverse and the 1876-1878 Type 1 and Type 2 Reverse among others. My set also includes all the various mintmark sizes. For instance, the 1839-O has a Small O, Large O and Huge O, therefore, I decided that my set had to include one of each. All coins are slabbed with at least half being either CAC stickered or CACG. (I took advantage of their crossover special to send in most of the collection.) The vast majority of the collection is AU or better with only the major keys being below AU with the lowest being the 1871-CC at FR-2, but hey, it is CAC stickered!

I originally started collecting Seated Liberty Dimes in the 1980's. That pursuit was put on hold when I got married and my wife and I built our house in 1991. Most of the collection was sold a few years later to Brian Greer to raise capital to purchase a utility tractor, a necessity where I live. I slowly began to start collecting Seated Dimes again in the late 90's and really picked up steam in to 2010's. I made my first purchase from GFRC in May of 2018 (Those first 2 coins I purchased from GFRC are still in my collection today.) and that is when the collection really started to take off. As my Seated Dime buddy, who bailed out on me, but I proudly own a number of his former coins, Tom Coulombe would say, that is when I got seriously into fine diming. You have provided me much advice over the years which helped to convince me to move my collection from a collection of raw coins to a collection of certified coins and always encouraged me to keep upgrading the collection with nicer coins while selling or trading the lesser coins. Always keep the collection improving. I even had the opportunity a few years back to be a table assistance for GFRC with Tom Coulombe at the Manchester Coins show and that was a blast.

Though my collection is complete, the continuous improvement shall continue. There are still other MPD's, overdates, and other varieties which will just have to be included. I have also picked up a few Seated Dime errors along the way. I can say in all honesty that over half of my Seated Dime collection has been sourced from GFRC and you will be missed. Though, I am happy to hear that you will be maintaining and even updating the web book. It always bothered me when you would sell a Seated Dime as unlisted. You wrote the book, man! How could you do that!

Thanks for all the guidance through the years and always having great coins available. Enjoy your retirement, especially playing on that tractor. Oh and time to move that Coulombe Family Collection out of the Active Collections on the GFRC Registry as I own more of his coins than he does.

Thanks for everything, Karl (aka, The Sacandaga Collection)

One comment is in order concerning the Open Set Registry. There is no immediate mechanism to move a set from Active to All-Time once it is sold. The options are deleting the set immediately or letting it ride as Active until time expires and the system eliminates the set from Active status and continues to feature the set within the All-Time status.

For readers who are curious, here is the link to the All-Time Liberty Seated Dime collections. This table features the who's who of Liberty Seated dime collecting and the documented lots in each of these completed sets.

https://www.seateddimevarieties.com/openregistry/set.php?set=21

Gold and Silver Again in Consolidation Mode

The precious metals appear to have entered another price consolidation phase with gold holding above the $4000 level and silver trading around $50/oz. Holding these levels is positive and a show of strength as Bitcoin has dropped substantially to $91K and is about 23% down from recent highs.

The AI boom story is starting to show cracks as the S&P 500 has retreated to 6672 as of Monday's close. Traders were expecting a 50 basis point in short term interest rates come the December Fed meeting. Recent hawkish statements by several Federal Reserve governors appears to be throwing cold water on those expectations.

Wrapping Up The Blog

As mentioned earlier, the GFRC shipping department starts operations this morning with several Express packages heading to serious collectors. Today should bring the arrival of check payments and more shipping on Wednesday.

Come the afternoon hours, I will be photographing a few Whitman Baltimore trade lots and several holdered Liberty Seated dime that were discovered in the back of the Maine safe. Most are web-book plate coins.

Once again, thank you for returning to the Daily Blog and taking in today's content. Please remember to drop by at 8:00 PM on Thursday evening for an all important Zoom call.

Be well!

November 17, 2025

Opening The GFRC Venice Florida Office

and

U.S. Interstates are Becoming More Dangerous

Greetings from Venice Florida and welcome to the Daily Blog. We are glad to be back after another annual snowbird migration.

We made it Venice after an eye opening two day journey along the U.S. I-95 corridor. Arrival time was 5:30 PM on Sunday after a rapid drive and stopping only for fuel and bathroom breaks. I probably lost a few pounds due to fasting while driving.

As the top headline indicates, the GFRC office electronics are operating smoothly after a clean start-up. I can't say enough great things about the new Lenovo laptop. This computer is far superior to the Dell XPS which was always on the unpredictable side with its external USB-C port interconnections. At this point. on a Monday morning and driving 24 hours in two days, the GFRC inventory has been placed into the safe and not much else. Throughout today, I will be preparing shipments that will begin processing on Tuesday.

You might be asking on the status of the 718 Boxster and where is my prize sports car? The Porsche transport pickup did not go smoothly. The first committed driver suffered a truck breakdown. The backup driver was stopped by DOT as I was told by the transport scheduling company. Was he an illegal immigrant driver? The third assigned driver did appear on Friday at 1:30 PM and took possession of our new Porsche. Come to learn that he also lives in Venice and will be dropping off the Boxster on Tuesday or Wednesday as his final stop before heading home. Here is a photo of the Boxster after being loaded into the transport at the top of Ledge Hill.

We had schedule a covered transport with a lift gate to ensure that the front splitter on the car would not be damaged when being loaded and unloaded. However, there was no choice but to accept the above covered transport with a long ramp. The driver carefully backed the Boxster into the trailer with me watching the splitter ground clearance which turned out to be roughly 2 inches of margin. The driver was also meticulous in taking cellphone photos of the car and noting any potential marks or scratches. At this point, there are none which was the notation. His role is to deliver the car in the same exact condition come tomorrow or Wednesday.

U.S. Interstates are Becoming More Dangerous

Our drive from Maine to Florida was not without issues...

First is that the rate of speed has increased on U.S highways as the amount of policing decreases. My average speed for the two days was probably 78-80 mph. Traffic is moving at a higher rate of speed which leaves little room for mistakes. We witnessed a near collision on I-95 going through Richmond. I hit the breaks in the passing lane as the collision appeared imminent in the right and center lanes and was preparing for where those cars might end up. Luckily, the drivers were able to avoid each other.

While driving in Baltimore, some dumb sh!t entered I-95 from the left side at a high rate of speed in the breakdown lane spraying rocks on cars in the slow moving left lane.

On I-84 in Connecticutt, a car transport in the far right lane made a sudden move left to avoid a broken down car and driver in the right breakdown lane. That move forced the car in the center lane into the left lane and the car in the left lane onto the shoulder. Thank goodness that there was a shoulder and not a concrete barrier.

The MDX suffered a direct hit from a large piece of rubber ejected from a car transport in Georgia. The rubber piece was launched into the air with Diane at the wheel. I watched at the projectile was heading directly for our car and wondering where the impact would be. It is a surreal feeling to be helpless while waiting for impact. We were lucky that the object did not hit our windshield or front hood, rather taking out a piece of the MDX's plastic front grill.

The last event took place on I-75 in Florida between Ocala and Tampa. An SUV with a trailer had just jack knifed and crashed into the left guide rail. I hit the breaks and immediately starting looking behind me for a path around the crash and just keep going.

GFRC consignors will be happy to know that your coins have safely made another long trek and are enjoying the tranquility of the office safe.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings attention to cleaning out the lanai before installing the furniture and unpacking the gas grill from our small carport storage area. Tuesday's GFRC shipments will be unpacked from the transported inventory boxes. Most important is a hefty amount of grocery shopping so I can regain those lost pounds....

Thank you for checking in and listening to our travel adventures.

Please check back on Tuesday morning as one of GFRC long time clients has offered a special announcement blog concerning his completion of a set of Liberty Seated dimes including all major die varieties, many of which are found in the Top 100 set.

Be well!

November 13, 2025

Homestead Leaves Clearing Wraps Up

and

GFRC Maine Office Closed Friday Thru Sunday

Greetings on a Thursday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for the return visit.

The countdown to the annual Florida migration is heading into the home stretch as the 718 Boxster is due to be picked up this morning. Diane will also be making the final GFRC package shipment today. Afterwards, my attention shifts to packing GFRC inventory and business accessories for the final time.

Wednesday's snow did melt by noon time on Thursday which provided an opportunity to get the final leaf clearing session in. It took 4.5 hours of non-stop leaf blowing and transport with the Ranger UTV and Polar cart to move a host of leaves to the compositing site behind the barn. To be efficient as possible with the leaf blower, the leaves were arranged in a long row for pickup with an empty trash car and then dumped into the Polar cart. One benefit of wet leaves is that they packed incredibly well in the cart so that five trash can loads could be packed and transported in a single run to the compost pile.

This image should provide an idea of how this task was accomplished. The new Echo 770H leaf blower is a beast is terms of power and wind speed but weighs in at 28 lbs. Wet leaves were no match for this machine.

GFRC Maine Office Closed Friday Thru Sunday

Fair warning that the GFRC Maine office will see a hard close starting tomorrow (Friday) and through the weekend. A hard close means that I will not be responding to email orders until Monday. Diane and I need a break from the business to get ourselves prepared for the long southern drive including the congestion at the usual I-95 Washington DC and I-75 Ocala choke points.

Any new orders incoming today will be acknowledged and dealt with come Monday.

Gold and Silver Ripping Higher

The precious metal rally appears to have reignited with both gold and silver ripping higher. As of 7:00 AM, gold is quoting at $4233 and silver is trading at $53.74/oz. I could write a thesis on the U.S. government's renewed stealth QE and China-Russian coordination to install gold as the globe's primary reserve asset. Instead, the following YouTube video featuring Luke Gormen provides detailed insights on the AI boom, challenging government debt financing, and how Xi has Trump over a barrel on rare earths regardless of recent agreements. When a country spends more on debt interest than its military, the days of the U.S. dollar as the global reserve asset are numbered.

This video may need to be viewed several times if not well versed in Treasury and bond market operations and lingo. IMHO, Luke Gormen is spot on and explains why China will drive gold to much higher levels. He also touches upon the AI boom and the obvious risks that no one is talking about in the mainstream media. AI could drive higher unemployment rates for those between 20 to 45 to the point of tanking the U.S. economy.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByYd-Xbxd0E

Wrapping Up The Blog

There is little else to share at this point and time to sign-off. The next Blog edition will arrive on Monday November 17. I'm looking forward to a Daily Blog holiday to be honest.

Again, thank you so much for the ongoing readership.

Be well!

November 12, 2025

November 20 Zoom Meeting Invitation

The GFRC Ownership Transition with Gerry, Darrell & Matt!

Clearing Homestead Leaves Part 2

and

A Little Early for April Fools Joke

Greetings on a cold southern Maine early morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you so much for the returning visit.

As another day's Blog is being composed, I'm staring out the office window and looking at a snow covered landscape. Yes, it snowed yesterday starting at noon time with the white flakes wrapping up by mid afternoon. The morning hours were spent blowing leaves on one side of the property given that I had a 1:00 PM appointment in Windham. This decision proved to be flawed as the critical leaf removal project is along the driveway and on the right side of the homestead. Those leaves are now covered with a thin layer of snow and frozen given the 29F outdoor temperature.

Yesterday's other important event was checking in with the car transport company in Kentucky since we had not heard anything about tomorrow's Porsche 718 Boxster pickup. A text message to Melissa resulted in a return phone call and sorting out the pickup and Venice Florida drop off details. The Boxster will be transported in an enclosed truck with lift gate to ensure that the front splitter is not damaged by moving up and down a car ramp. The pickup occurs tomorrow morning with the scheduled arrival at our Auburn Lakes condo come Saturday afternoon. Since we are driving to Florida during the weekend, Diane's sister Rachel, who luckily is in Venice, will handle the delivery and have the car parked under our carport. This 718 Boxster transport process has been a learning experience.

November 20 Zoom Meeting Invitation - The GFRC Ownership Transition with Gerry, Darrell & Matt!

I'm pleased to announce that an important Zoom meeting has been scheduled for Thursday November 20 at 8:00 PM ET to discuss the GFRC ownership and operations transition with all customers and consignors. Len Augsburger has graciously agreed to coordinate the Zoom call. The Zoom call link is as follows:

https://wustl.zoom.us/j/5086565637

The meeting agenda will focus on several topics.

1. An opportunity for Gerry to again announce his retirement as GFRC owner/operator and share what is next.

2. How the current www.seateddimevarieties.com website will be reconfigured into separate websites. *The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors* online reference and related content will remain at www.seateddimevarieties.com while the GFRC sales platform (and its many links) will be accessible at a new URL managed by Darrell and Matt. Gerry will continue to be webmaster for his Liberty Seated dime die variety online reference.

3. Darrell Low and Matt Mayers will provide insights into their GFRC website and sales plans once taking over the business inventory come early February 2026.

4. An opportunity for attendees to ask questions and voice this concerns with the transition.

We are taking a thoroughly transparent approach to the GFRC transition given the importance of this marketplace for Liberty Seated coinage collectors as a starting point. Many consignors will see their coins being moved from one ownership structure to that of new owners. This is an opportunity to ask questions as we wish to reassure everyone that the transition is being carefully planned with tight cooperation between Gerry and the new owners.

I've committed to be in the GFRC booth during 2026 major coin shows as a table assistant to ensure client confidence with the transition.

We look forward to your attendance on the evening of November 20.

Clearing Homestead Leaves Part 2

Southern Maine temperatures are due to warm up a tad this afternoon and reach a warm 41F. Yesterday's snow should melt allowing me to get round two of critical leaf removal accomplished. My goal is to be outdoors by 10 AM and work through the balance of day until sunset to get those leaves removed. There is still Thursday afternoon if necessary, but at that point we are packing luggage for the southern journey.

At this point, my focus will not be on responding to customer purchase orders and emails until the evening hours. Certain stuff has to get done along with one final USPS shipping session on Thursday morning.

For the record, there will be no GFRC Black Friday Sale this year given the Florida and GFRC business transition.

A Little Early for April Fools Joke

I received an email inquiry from "C" concerning an 1854-O dime with No Arrows. The body of the email is next.

Hi Gary,
I've been doing a lot of research on a coin I have and ended up coming across your name and saw an email address and decided to see if you could respond.
I have some coins passed to me from my grandpa that I've had for many years now. I have one coin that has got me puzzled.
1854 -O seated dime - no arrows.
I've weighed the coin and is spot on at 2.49 grams.
As I know of counterfeits and replication I still think this coin is a genuine die variant.
Is there any information you might have? That can determine authenticity before a submission for authenticity to determine if the investment has merit?
Any information is greatly appreciated.

Images were requested out of curiosity. "C" should have been able to determine that this "dime" was a modern Chinese counterfeit. It seems a little early for an April Fools joke...

Wrapping Up The Blog

A quick look at the precious metals trading in London indicates that gold is holding its new breakout level at $4135/oz while silver is nicely above the key $50 mark at $51.65. Unless a large bullion CTA (major U.S. bank) attempts to crash the price of gold again, it appears that the two precious metals will resume their upward momentum. A take down of gold typically takes place on a Friday early morning once Asian markets are closed. Clearly, precious metal pricing is now being controlled by the Shanghai Gold Exchange and not the LBMA and COMEX paper markets. This is a dramatic change that has me so confident with the precious metal trend.

As mentioned earlier, I will be in the office until 10:00 AM followed by the balance of the day outdoors blowing and hauling leaves.

Thanks again for the visit.

Be well!

November 11, 2025

GFRC Secures Huge Consignment

and

Clearing Homestead Leaves

Greetings on a Veterans Day Tuesday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. We appreciate the visit.

Monday brought a busy day in the GFRC office catching up with client needs after a week focused on the Whitman Baltimore show. The office relocation process to Florida is underway with the organizing of coin shipments, while still in Maine, and those lots that will be transported to and shipped out of Florida. Every six months or so, *the no coin left behind* mantra takes center stage. This year, that mantra is even more important given the business transition to new owners come February.

While working through the transition preparations, a phone call arrived from a long time client dating back to 2014. Our dear friend is moving on in age and has decided to liquidate another segment of a life long collection. This individual has been selling coins via GFRC for a decade and now feels compelled to seriously thin the herd. I listened intently as this lifelong collector described what he planned to consign come early December at the Sarasota Florida show. To be succinct, GFRC will be receiving Barber dime and quarters set with the typical grade being PCGS AU58 and the majority with CAC green beans. To enhance the consignment, circulated Liberty Seated dollars will be included. Many of the Barber coins were previously purchased from GFRC which will help with the preparations for a FUN show debut.

So much for working on those 300 raw Liberty Seated dimes while in Florida. That project will be delayed until after the business transition.

The arrival of this new consignment is so typical of my life and transition points. Every time that there is a planned shifts to new pursuits, the strings pull me back in for one more closing chapter.

Clearing Homestead Leaves

Southern Maine is in a cold and wet weather pattern this week. One of the imperatives over the next four days is clearing all the downed leaves surrounding the homestead. As often mentioned in the Blog, a carpet of down leaves on grass is an invitation for moles to locate warm burrows. Spring time reveals their channels and a destroyed lawn.

Though it is only 34F outdoors, I'm keeping today's Blog edition short as I must get going with the leaf blowing and transport to the composting pile behind the barn. This is a two day project which can no longer be delayed regardless of the oaks and house side maple still holding back with dropping a portion of their leaves.

Check Payments to Venice Florida Office Come Wednesday

At this point in the Florida transition, Diane has already changed our shipment return address to the Florida office. No checks should be mailed to the Maine address as they will be forwarded to Florida.

Come this evening, I will be changing all GFRC website and Collectors Corner addresses to our Florida office. That address is:

GFRC

502 Auburn Lakes Circle

Venice, Florida 34292-2367

The GFRC office will be closed from Friday November 14 through Sunday November 16.

Wrapping Up The Blog

The gold and silver rally appears to be underway as gold is quoting at $4145 and silver at $51 as the Blog is composed. It appears that China is now in firm control of price setting based on overnight increases in the Hong Kong and Shanghai markets.

That is it for today's commentary as I need to get into the shower and then head outdoors for leaf clearing. Emails and text messages will be responded to during the lunch hour and this evening. I need time away from the office to get homestead preparations done.

Thanks again for the visit.

Be well!

November 10, 2025

Darrell Low's Baltimore Show Report

Mountaineer Collection Musings at BWI

and

Gold and Silver Attempting a Breakout

Greetings once again from the Raymond, Maine office and welcome to the Daily Blog. We appreciate the ongoing readership.

It is cold and wet in southern Maine with the wood stove running hot. Rain is forecasted for the entire day with the afternoon hours seeing downpours. Looking at the 10 Day weather forecast, Tuesday through Thursday are the targeted days for blowing leaves, much of which will be wet and heavy. We are waiting for confirmation of the 718 Boxster pickup by a transport company on Thursday. Saturday brings a sunny day for the southern exodus and just in time as snow and freezing rain arrives on Sunday and Monday. Let's hope that this weather forecast holds for the next few days.

Darrell Low's Baltimore Show Report

I'm pleased to be turning over today's blogging duties to Darrell Low. We welcome Darrell and his exacting Whitman Baltimore show report and hope that the GFRC community enjoys the perspective of a collector turned dealer. Actually, I went through this transition during the 2013-2014 time frame.

Matt Mayers and I had a great time at our first show behind Gerry's table. As two collectors, it is a big difference being behind a table versus in front of it. We arrived on Wednesday afternoon to help Gerry and Diane set up the booth which went quickly with four people working on it. Then we went out to have a great dinner together as pictured on Friday's Daily Blog edition. Yes, four out of the six attendees had the lasagna which I highly recommend.

Thursday morning began early as Matt and I were excited for the show open. We went to our favorite place for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. so we could get to the convention center by 8:00 a.m. for dealers to get ready for the 10:00 a.m. opening. When the show opened, attendees descended onto Gerry's table. I was able to make the first sale of the day, and we made a number of sales for the next several hours which kept us busy. I was pleasantly surprised at the coins people brought to Gerry's table for us to consider for purchase and those that brought coins were happy when they left the booth.

Friday was not as active as Thursday, and I could have more detailed discussions with collectors who were looking for an opinion on their coins. There were some nice coins that I let collectors know why I liked them, but I also felt a duty to let someone know if there was an issue such as a rim problem or a light cleaning which was appreciated. We packed up Gerry's booth quickly and I enjoyed the spicy tequila that Gerry brought. After two days of mostly non-stop talking, I had a quick dinner and went to sleep early.

I was by myself on Saturday before heading home in the afternoon. Blog readers do read the blog carefully as I received a request to look for a popular small sized note that would meet my approval for the grade range the collector wanted. I looked at the available examples at the show, and none met my criteria as I only want well-centered notes with nice paper quality for the grade.

Throughout the show, I enjoyed talking to a number of attendees who had many questions for me on what to expect in the future. Gerry has done a nice

job building his business and it was wonderful to see so many people congratulate him. We definitely want to find ways to improve the user experience for consignors and buyers. We are working hard perfecting high-quality images and optimizing the photo editing process to bring consignments to market faster. Educating customers is very important to Matt and myself. You can expect that we will be doing Zoom calls where we can stage Q&A discussions on anything related to Seated coins or a presentation on specific Seated denominations, the history behind Seated coinage, or grading Seated coins. We also want to make collecting coins more fun, and we have thought of different ways to do that. Note that we will be accepting want lists which some collectors that know us well have already provided us.

Mountaineer Collection Musings at BWI

John Erwin, the Mountaineer Collection, traveled to Baltimore on Saturday to retrieve the 1867-S A-2 Ahwash plate coin followed by a CACG submission. John is one of the individuals who has undertaken the challenge of documenting Fortin web-book plate coin via special CACG pedigree labels. He was able to convince the CACG staff to honor his request for a Kamal Ahwash pedigree label for the newly released 1867-S dime.

While waiting for his returning home flight on Saturday evening at BWI, John typed out the following emails which I am gladly publishing today.

Hi Gerry,

As I sit here in the Baltimore airport waiting for my return trip from the 2025 Winter Baltimore show, I wanted to share with you something else that came out of my Summer Baltimore Show CACG submission. The beginnings of this story dates back to the 2023 Summer ANA Show held in the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. I stopped into the show after dropping my Wife and Son off at the Pittsburgh International Airport after their last visit with my parents. I dropped off the 1871 and 1871-S Tom Bender dimes at the GFRC booth and asked you if you'd have a moment to give me your opinion on which of my two 1856-S MS62 dimes you'd keep and which you'd sell. This is a snippet of what I wrote about the interaction that was posted in the Daily Blog.

....the next two coins were duplicates all the way down to the grade. Gerry has preached, and practiced, the need to sell duplicates as it's healthy for the hobby and it frees up otherwise dead numismatic capital. I asked Gerry to give me his opinion on which of two duplicates to keep so that I can start letting go of some coins that are very special to me.

One of the duplicates has no toning and with the naked eye has a considerable amount of visible chatter in the fields. The somewhat mirrored fields give the chatter nowhere to hide. The other coin is toned with minimal chatter visible. Between these two coins I was mostly concerned with that visible chatter because I'm still learning to recognize original surface conditions and even more so original surface conditions with contact marks. I'm still dependent on CAC for this attribute. After he viewed both of the duplicates, Gerry asked me which coin I thought I should keep. My answer was the coin with no toning, as I like its look marginally better. Gerry's response was yes, but not for the same reason. He pointed out to me that the toned coin has hairlines in the fields. And when I asked him about the chatter on the white coin his response was it is just chatter. Why couldn't I see those hairlines? I have to admit that it was difficult for me to find what took Gerry seconds to see and call out.

And now the rest of the story...

Before I left the GFRC table that day in 2023 I asked you if you thought the untoned coin would sticker and you said that you thought it might. I followed your recommendation and sold the coin with the toning. At this year's 2025 Baltimore Summer show I sent the untoned coin in for CACG to review. They downgraded the coin to an MS61, but I was thrilled that they accepted it as a CAC quality coin. They agreed with your assessment that the chatter was just chatter. Thank you again for taking the time that day in Pittsburgh to share your time and experience, and with guiding me as to which coin was the best to keep and why. When seriously considering a coin to add to my collection. I still apply what I learned that day, which is to look at a coin from all directions and angles to reveal what may not be so obvious to see otherwise.

Gold and Silver Attempting a Positive Breakout

As we start a new week, gold and silver appear to be breaking out of a tight multi-week trading range. As of 7:50 AM, gold has jumped to nearly $4100/oz with silver breaking through the $50 mark. What is behind this sudden rally? I have no clue as being caught by surprise.

Morning equity market futures are positive with the S&P 500 forecasted to open up nearly 0.9%. The 10 Year Treasury yield is stable at 4.13%. These indices provide no clues as to why both gold and silver has gapped up about 2%.

The pricing movement did start during Hong Kong trading as gold was quoting at $4040 with the balance of the gains during London trading hours.

Wrapping Up The Blog

There are a few packages to ship today as USPS will observe Veterans Day holiday on Tuesday. Otherwise, I will be hanging out in the office and preparing those 300+ raw Liberty Seated dimes for transport to Florida among other activities.

I hope that you've enjoyed today's guest Blogs. Thanks again for the visit and please be well!

November 9, 2025

Back in the GFRC Maine Office

and

Whitman Baltimore Show Summary

Greetings from the Raymond, Maine homestead and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you so much for checking in.

As the lead headline indicates, Diane and I enjoyed (if that is the right word) a quick return drive from Baltimore to Maine on Saturday. We broke down the GFRC booth at 4:30 PM on Friday followed by having a makeshift dinner in the hotel room before heading to bed early. Come Saturday morning, we where heading back north at 8:30 AM and reached the homestead by 4:30 PM. The early start along with traveling on a Saturday brought about nearly smooth sailing through the usual choke points shaving a full hour off the trip. The 2014 Acura MDX still operates like it was fresh off a dealer's lot.

It is now Sunday morning with the wood stove operating at maximum temperature as southern Maine temperatures have dipped into the upper 30s with a chance of wintry conditions today. Rain is in the forecast for later today and through Monday followed by temperatures ranging from daytime highs of 42F to overnight freezes in the high 20s. Come Tuesday, my priorities shift to leaf blowing the entire property and closing down the construction stone path to the back acreage with a roadside rock barrier.

In terms of GFRC, today brings the usual post coin show administrative workload. It was a great show with many consignor coins sold. These sales will be posted into the COIN database and uploaded as some point during the afternoon hours.

GFRC purchased a few walk up deals and trades at the Baltimore show....

Alert...at this point during the Blog composition, it has started snowing given our higher elevation. This is the first snow of the 2025-2026 winter season with the mulched area by Valley Rd starting to turn white. We should have gone directly to Florida from Baltimore, but several factors required that we return to Maine. It is just cool to have witnessed the first snow flurries of the season.

Whitman Baltimore Show Summary

The "Winter" 2025 Whitman Baltimore show was a great GFRC event in terms of sales and the ownership transition process.

As for sales, we were able to punch through the all important six figure mark after also enjoying a similar outcome at the NH Coin Expo two weeks ago. GFRC inventory continues to shrink as we worked hard to move consignor coins along with GFRC owned inventory. At this point, I will have roughly seven double room slabbed boxes of inventory for the Florida migration and upcoming Sarasota coin show in early December.

Let's talk about the ownership transition as both Darrell Low and Matt Mayers were active in the GFRC booth throughout the show. After spending two full days with both individuals, I am 100% confident that the Gerry Fortin Rare Coins business was sold to the best possible individuals in terms of numismatic and business acumen. In particular on Friday, Darrell spent the entire day in the booth talking with established clients as they arrived to the table. Once these individuals extended their congratulations on my retirement, I made a point of introducing them to Darrell who then took over with relationship building. Darrell spent most of the day chatting with our clientele and understanding their collecting goals and how the new GFRC management can be supportive.

While Darrell was working the booth, Matt Mayers was consumed with floor buying and working through the Stack's auction lots in the upstairs convention center viewing room. I can assure you that Matt has a tremendous eye for originality and numismatic value when making acquisitions. GFRC's reputation for premium Liberty Seated coinages, Capped Bust, Barbers, and U.S, gold with be certainly maintained with the new ownership. Actually, I believe that these two gentlemen will take the GFRC platform to new heights in terms of quality and a broader inventory content. Darrell has made refinements to the coin photography and image processing allowing for more efficiencies in posting new purchases and consignments to the 30 Day Price List.

Darrell asked that I remind the entire GFRC client base that he is seeking consignments at the 2026 Winter FUN show as the targeted inventory transition from the old to new owners occurring in early February. Secondly, I will still be around during 2026 at the GFRC booth as a table assistant. My first bridging appearance will be at the Spring Whitman Baltimore show come March 2026.

Let's close this segment with a group photo that was taken on Friday afternoon.

What are Gerry's Next Projects?

The most consistent question that I was asked by well wishers had to do with my next project. At this point, the GFRC community knows me all too well and the fact that I will be taking on other challenges with the freed up time. Diane and I plan to take several multi-day driving holidays with the 718 Boxster during the coming winter months. Otherwise, I will be focused on the remaining 300+ raw Liberty Seated dimes that were showcased recently in a Daily Blog edition. This group will be photographed and the fresh images posting to *The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Varieties Collectors* online reference along with updating descriptions. This project will keep me busy throughout the winter months. Before long. it will be time to return to the Maine homestead.

Once back in Maine, there are two new projects planned for the back acreage park. The first is the cutting of a new walking and UTV trail insider the current property perimeter trails. The second project is to install a connecting trail to a second larger spring which will be then connected to the existing pond along with its expansion in size and depth. These two projects will keep me busy for months along with sustaining the existing park and finding someone to take much of the cut logs that now litter the property.

Wrapping Up The Blog

So ends today's Daily Blog edition. I hope that you've enjoyed the content. Come Monday morning, I'll try to get some precious metal researcher done later today towards offering a fresh commentary of what is the state of the gold and silver market.

Thanks again for the visit.

Be well!

November 7, 2025

Whitman Baltimore - A Busy GFRC Event

Greetings on a Friday afternoon and welcome to the Daily Blog. We are live from the Whitman Baltimore bourse floor. Thank you for the visit.

As the headline indicates, the GFRC farewell tour continues with a busy stop at the Whitman Baltimore coin show. The absence of Daily Blog editions for the past several days is indicative of how active the bourse has been with a steady floor of customers at Booth #818.

Thursday morning was absolutely wild as several larger buyers descending on our showcases and bought in a big way. Once early birds arrived at 10:00 AM, the sale momentum continued as a brisk pace. Diane was constantly writing receipts while the new owners, Darrell and Matt, were busy waiting on customers and passing along coins for pricing quotes. Noon brought the opening of the bourse to the general public and yet another wave of attendees and shoppers. The GFRC team was consumed until 4:00 PM as the bourse had finally started to clear out. The end of day sales tally was nearly into the six figures, a much welcomed outcome considering how active the Manchester NH had been.

What was hot?

Surprisingly, we sold a substantial amount of Liberty Seated quarters followed by U.S. gold as the top sales leaders. For once, Liberty Seated halves were on the quiet side and Liberty Seated dimes being somewhere in the middle in terms of ranked sales.

GFRC consignors will be happy as we sold a broad cross section of coins for many of our dedicated clients.

For those who visited with us in Baltimore, the GFRC transition from the current Gerry and Diane ownership to Darrell Low and Matt Mayers is readily evident. The four individuals have been working seamlessly together handling the various tasks behind the table. Since Gerry is no longer buying new inventory, Darrell has taken over the review of vest pocket dealer offerings as they walk up to the table. Matt was behind chatting with current customers and providing introductions. This extra help allowed me to focus on two primary activities, namely receiving congratulation on the pending retirement and reassuring customers that they will be in good hands with the new ownership team. Of course, Diane was busy waiting on customers and writing a plethora of purchase receipts.

The current and new GFRC team held a team building dinner at La Tavola in Baltimore's Little Italy on Wednesday after setting up the booth. Joining the group were Len Augsburger and Robert DeBold.

It is now 3:00 PM on a Friday and bourse attendance is starting to wane. I'd like to walk the bourse and add a few more $20 Saints to the gold stash. Therefore, let's end the Blog at this point.

There will be no Blog edition on Saturday as we will be starting the journey back to Maine during the early morning hours.

Thanks again for the visit.

Be well!

November 4, 2025

Heading to the Whitman Baltimore Show

and

Requests for Specific Liberty Seated Dime Die Varieties

Greetings on a Tuesday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. We continue to appreciate your visits as will Darrell and Matt come 2026.

After nearly 12 years of operating GFRC, preparations for a major show have become memory muscle. Sure, the term "memory muscle" is more synonymous with riding a bike or something equivalent. But the reality is that preparing for a coin show is a series of repeated steps. Travel luggage is retrieved from the garage attic. GFRC inventory is consolidated in traveling double row slabbed boxes and placed into the luggage. Next comes the booth accessories like table aprons, locks, and the all important receipt pads and change pursue. Key is not forgetting our dealer badges and my 10x loupe. The last step before departure is closing down the laptop and packing the electronic office. This is today's agenda.

For years, I've made mention in the Blog of a favorite wholesaler that I would meet first at major shows. This individual would arrive with two double row slabbed boxes of new purchases and always provided GFRC first shot. Those session were in hotel rooms or in some brightly lit spot at a convention center. The trash talk and routine was predictable and part of the nuance of the coin dealer experience. For those of you who have never determine who my favorite wholesaler was, today brings the big reveal. But first, here is a creation by this individual that arrived via text message on Monday. I could not resist posting this image, a creation by David Sunshine, as it accurately captures the next chapter in the GFRC saga.

Monday was a busy day attempting to resolve a Hostway FTP issue whereby I could not upload new image files to the server. I made mention of this fact in yesterday's ramblings and took steps to get the situation resolved. The action was several hours communicating with a Hostway support technician who diagnosed the issue as being with the Dreamweaver app and not Hostway. In the process, I downloaded and learned how to use FileZilla, a free FTP application that is much faster than the embedded FTP function inside Dreamweaver. I was able to get into the GFRC files on the Hostway server and conduct some housekeeping that led to the uploading of several new lots on the 30 Day Price List. The mission was accomplished and I learned how to use an alternative application for moving files between my laptop and an online server. It was a good day with mission accomplished.

Tomorrow brings a long and probably exhausting day as we are driving to Baltimore and arriving in time for the 5:00 PM booth setup task. There is no question that the Daily Blog will not be published on Wednesday and Thursday. Come Friday morning, I will secure a group photo of the existing and new GFRC ownership teams within booth #818.

Requests for Specific Liberty Seated Dime Die Varieties

I'd like to reassure those collectors who made specific requests for raw web-book plate coins that I have not forgotten you. From memory, there at five collectors who took the time to look through my Liberty Seated dime online reference and made specific requests. Those requests are sitting in the email Inbox and will be researched either next week or once we have transitioned to Florida. Once re-establishing the GFRC Florida office, there will be time to check through the die variety 2x2 boxes making a determination on what is still available.

I'm also planning on loading a host of raw Liberty Seated dime web-book plate coins to the 30 Day Price List if no significant consignments appear at the Baltimore show.

Wrapping Up The Blog

There is a small amount of morning shipping to accomplish along with a quick drive to the Raymond PO for transfer. Afterwards, the day's focus is on packing the GFRC office for the Whitman Baltimore show as described earlier in today's ramblings.

Thank you for the ongoing visits and sharing another phase in a business life that has nearly spanned 50 years.

Be well!

November 3, 2025

Whitman Baltimore Week Arrives

An Opportunity to Meet the New GFRC Owners

Greetings on a cold southern Maine Monday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for checking in.

Yes, I took a vacation on Sunday and decided to not compose a Daily Blog as there was little to share. The break from the everyday morning routine was welcomed as I took the opportunity to hang out in the basement sound room enjoying some ancient Genesis and Peter Gabriel YouTube videos on the Sony OLED. One client emailed with his concerns that I had hurt my back using the new Echo 770H leaf blower. Though the 770H is a powerful machine, it weighs in at 27 lbs which is a lot to carry on one's back for several hours when close to 70 years of age. Yesterday, I used the Echo 770H to clear leaves off all the walking trails, a 1.5 hour task that consumed a full tank of gas. Maine hunting season is in effect as of November 1, therefore we must be careful to wear orange vests when walking the trails outside of Sundays.

Winter is in the air as this morning's 7:00 AM low temperature is 29F with Wednesday's low dropping to 26 degrees during the overnight. So far so good in terms of avoiding snow in the weather forecast prior to our Florida departure.

Whitman Baltimore Week Arrives

The annual "winter" Whitman Baltimore coin show week is upon us. The show will be the second event on Gerry's farewell tour, and most important, an opportunity for attending clients to meet Darrell Low and Matt Mayers, the forthcoming new GFRC owners effective the middle of Q1'2026. Darrell and Matt will be trying their hands as table assistants for the first time along with Gerry and Diane in the GFRC booth. Whether wishing to sell coins or discuss a fresh consignment, this will be an chance to sit down and discuss your numismatic needs with these two fine gentlemen. Of course, GFRC will have its entire online price list inventory at the show.

GFRC can be found at its former location between Stack's and Heritage in Hall C. The footprint is smaller with three 8' tables as compared to the quad corner configuration of the past. Here is a Whitman bourse floor and our location.

Whitman Baltimore Show - GFRC at Booth #818

GFRC Florida Transition Schedule

Today's Blog is a good time to again mentioned the GFRC Florida transition schedule.

In the past, Gerry and Diane would attend the Baltimore show followed by driving directly from Baltimore to Venice, Florida. Unfortunately, this year's Baltimore show schedule is earlier than normal which requires us to return to Maine for a week to clean up the property and close down the homestead for the winter.

Once again, here is the GFRC transition schedule. We will be back in the office Maine office on November 10th for a final round of shipping along with packing up layaways, extended payment lots, and the 300 or so raw Liberty Seated dime in my reference collection that will be moving with us to Florida. Please note the following schedule in terms of mailing payment checks to the proper address based on our whereabouts.

GFRC at Whitman Baltimore - November 5 - 8.

Final day for mailing checks to Maine office - November 8

GFRC website and Collectors Corner address change to Venice Florida - November 12

GFRC

502 Auburn Lakes Circle

Venice, Florida 34292-2367

First day for mailing checks to Florida office - November 13

GFRC Maine office closed - November 14 - 16

GFRC Florida office opens - November 17

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings a sunny seasonable late autumn day with rain arriving after dusk. We will be working in the office during the morning hours given a reasonable amount of lot shipments.

Looking at the precious metals, gold and silver are holding steady as consolidation continues for gold at the $4000/oz level.

I've been trying to load a few new lots to the 30 Day Price List but the Hostway server is not cooperating in terms of FTP uploads. If I can't get the images uploaded in the next few hours, these pieces will be posted with descriptions and offer prices, but without images. Hopefully, the root cause for this FTP difficulty can be determined and resolved.

Thank you again for the visit.

Be well!

November 1, 2025

1867-S Dime - The Kamal Ahwash Plate Coin

and

2025 Landscaping Session Coming to a Close

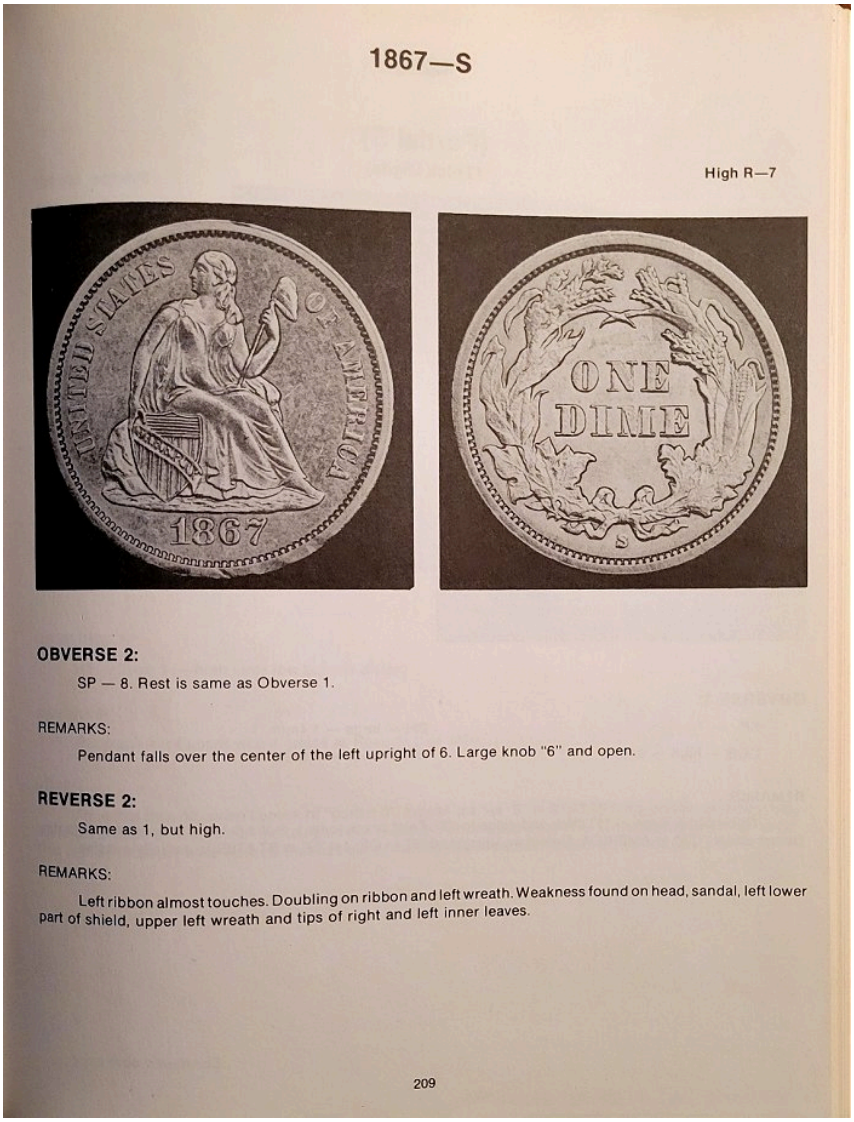
Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog as the calendar finds us at the beginning of November with Daylight Saving Time ending this evening. Thank you, as always for the return visit.

November is going to be a hectic month for the Fortins with to/from drives to the Whitman Baltimore show, closing down the homestead coupled with several days of removing leaves, and finally the two day drive from Maine to Florida. This year, we add the complexity of the 718 Boxster pickup and transport to our Venice condo. At the Baltimore show, GFRC will be introducing its forthcoming new owners, Darrell Low and Matt Mayers. Come November 17, there will be a sigh of relief that the annual transition has been accomplished with only the GFRC office needing to be configured and opened for business. We are looking forward to a quiet Thanksgiving this year with local friends in the Auburn Lakes Condo HOA.

Let's shift attention to today's headline topics.

First up is one of the forgotten Liberty Seated dime that surfaced when organizing my remaining reference collection pieces. Resting quietly in the 2x2 box for decades, the 1867-S A-2 Kamal Ahwash plate coin returns to the GFRC spotlight via the Daily Blog. For those in the community that have a copy of the Ahwash Liberty Seated Dime encyclopedia, this coin is illustrated on page 209 of this ground breaking die variety reference that was published during 1981. Below the GFRC imaged dime is a photograph of the dime as presented in the Ahwash book.

1867-S F-102 AU58 10C - Kamal Ahwash Plate Coin



1867—S

High R—7

OBVERSE 2:

SP — 8. Rest is same as Obverse 1.

REMARKS:

Pendant falls over the center of the left upright of 6. Large knob "6" and open.

REVERSE 2:

Same as 1, but high.

REMARKS:

Left ribbon almost touches. Doubling on ribbon and left wreath. Weakness found on head, sandal, left lower part of shield, upper left wreath and tips of right and left inner leaves.

209

It is doubtful that this 1867-S dime will ever find its way into a TPG holder as the piece has been dipped along with rims marks below the date. The strike is about as good as it gets for the 1867 San Francisco issue with minor strike doubling on the reverse. Rub, if any, is negligible.

This dime is for sale immediately and will be priced and posted to the 30 Day Price List during the afternoon hours. This piece was purchased from Brian Greer during June 1992 and will ship in its original cardboard 2x2 with the Fortin notes that capture the purchase date and Ahwash plate coin pedigree. Undoubtedly, a piece of significant numismatic history that needs a passionate curator to provide a loving home and also, to ensure that the coin does find its way to another special numismatist in the future. We cannot let coins like this lose their pedigrees.

2025 Landscaping Session Coming to a Close

Friday brought a seasonally warm but very windy day as Hurricane Melissa moved by Maine on the Atlantic ocean. A host of leaves are now on the ground, and hopefully, the bulk of the oak leaves will have dropped prior to our Florida relocation.

Much of Friday afternoon was spent on Johnny2 with a concerted effort to complete the landscaping of the newly cleared back acreage area that has been frequently featured in the Blog. Back and forth I went between the gravel, 3/4" stone, and wood chip piles to the cleared area to complete this project. 5:00 PM Happy Hour arrived and it was time to wrap up for the day. This image was taken and showcases substantial progress that I am most proud of. Both the Fortin and Dodson homes are nicely illustrate against dark clouds at the top of Ledge Hill. Come next spring, the barren unfinished area to the right will see light green ferns sprouting that will provide a nice contrast to the wood chips.

Could this landscaped area, along with other cleared land, be converted into a mini 8 hole disc golf course for family visits? Only time will tell...

Halloween in Brookline, Boston

Let's close today's Blog with a lovely snapshot of Natsumi and Ayumi Yamatin all dressed up for Halloween. Chikae and Matt shared Natsumi's and Ayumi's Halloween trick or treating adventures via a video call during our Happy Hour. In the Brookline Coolidge Corner area, there are two residential streets that host annual Halloween events where kids can freely roam and load up on candy placed in containers outside ghoulishly decorated homes.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings a seasonal Maine autumn day with highs punching through the 50F mark and the overnight dipping below freezing. My morning start with outgoing shipping followed by a trip to Home Depot to pick up a new gas powered Echo 770H leaf blower along with more diesel fuel for Johnny2. I will probably spend another hour or two finishing the landscaping project as I'm just about out of material other than wood chips.

I'll be monitoring emails through the day for GFRC orders and will get the Kam Ahwash 1867-S dime posted to the price list at some point. Please don't be bashful about requesting a first shot.

We appreciate the ongoing readership. Be well!

GFRC, 502 Auburn Lakes Circle, Venice Florida 34292-2367 207-329-9957 @ gerry@seateddimevarieties.com

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